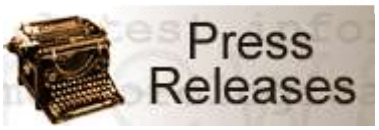

The Meteorological Office

PRESS OFFICE

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THE WETTEST JUNE SINCE LAST JUNE

Not surprisingly provisional Met. Office figures issued today show that June 1998 has been dull and wet. However we all have short memories, as June 1997 was both wetter and duller.

So far June 1998 has seen 125mm of rain when averaged across England and Wales, whereas the equivalent figure at the end of June 1997 was 134mm. This is still one of the wettest Junes this century. Normal June rainfall is about 65mm, and the wettest June on record was in 1860 when there was 150mm of rain.

The wettest areas have been north-west England and parts of north Wales where many places have seen over 200mm of rain. By contrast a few parts of northern Scotland have seen nearer 50mm of rain.

On average there have been 5.08 hours of sunshine per day this June, compared to just 4.54 hours per day in June 1997. The dullest June on record was in 1987 when there were only 4.09 hours per day.

For more information:

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Notes:

The mean Central England Temperature for June 1998 has been 14.1ºC, just 0.1ºC below the long-term normal. (1997 was also 14.1ºC).

The England and Wales rainfall series dates back to the 18th century, and Central England Temperature series dates back to the 17th century. The England and Wales sunshine series began in 1909.

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